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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Fourth session
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF PREPARATION OF PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Contribution submitted by the Committee against Torture

The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to the attached recommendations submitted by the Committee against Torture to the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights as well as to the Conference itself. These recommendations were adopted by the Committee at its ninth session in November 1992, pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155.

GE.93-12355

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE
TO THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AS WELL AS TO THE CONFERENCE ITSELF */

"The Committee against Torture,

Pursuant to paragraphs 9 and 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 and paragraph 5 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991,

1. Appoints Mr. Sorensen as representative and Mr. Mikhailov as alternate to the meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights,

2. Recommends that:

(a) With a view to eradicating torture by the year 2000, that subject matter should be included in the agenda of the World Conference.

(b) An energetic and concerted effort should be made both during the process of preparation for the World Conference and at the Conference itself to encourage:

(i) States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including its articles 20, 21 and 22; and

(ii) Those States parties to the Convention which have not done so to declare in favour of the provisions of articles 20, 21 and 22.

(c) In view of the unfortunate rise of ethnic violence, torture and other human rights breaches in all their manifestations in various regions of the world, the possibility should be examined of:

(i) Preventing human rights violations, especially the crime of torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, within the scope of the activities of the Committee; and

(ii) Increasing the United Nations budgetary resources allocated to human rights.

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*/ Adopted by the Committee at its 136th meeting, held on 20 November 1992.

3. Would welcome the opportunity, within the framework of the World Conference, for a meeting to be convened with the participation of the Chairpersons and/or representatives of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and the Chairpersons and/or representatives of each of the principal regional and other human rights organizations to deal with the matters referred to.

4. Would also welcome the Preparatory Committee as well as the World Conference exploring the following broader issues:

(a) The establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(b) The creation of an International Court for Human Rights;

(c) The establishment of a Research Institute for Human Rights connected with the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations; and

(d) Cooperation and coordination with regional systems for the protection of human rights.

Suggests that with a view to improving the implementation of existing human rights standards and instruments, the following topics should be considered as appropriate ones for inclusion by the World Conference in its agenda:

(a) An examination of the issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention against Torture;

(b) An evaluation of the effectiveness of United Nations monitoring methods and mechanisms; and

(c) A formulation of concrete recommendations for improving the effectiveness of United Nations mechanisms (especially the functioning of the Convention against Torture) aimed at promoting, encouraging and monitoring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."